VZCZCXYZ0003 RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTA #1837 1870820 ZNR UUUUU ZZH R 060820Z JUL 07 FM AMEMBASSY ASTANA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990

UNCLAS ASTANA 001837

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PM/WRA (BAKER); SCA/CEN (M. O'MARA)

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: PREL KZ

 ${\tt SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: NATO \ PFP \ DESTRUCTION \ PROJECT \ MEMORANDUM \ PASSED}$

BY MAZHILIS AND SENATE

REF: 06 STATE 194986

11. (SBU) On June 20, the Mazhilis ratified the memorandum for the NATO Partnership for Peace-sponsored destruction of Kazakhstani small arms and light weapons. On June 28, the Senate followed suit and passed the memo, forwarding it to the desk of the president. According to the press, Deputy Defense Minister Bolat Sembinov said that the project would support the Ministry's "high priority project to destroy over 27,000 units of surplus out-of-date small arms and over 300 substandard missiles" (i.e. MANPADS, reftel).

 $\P 2$. (U) According to Kazakhstani law, the president now has one month to sign the memo, finalizing the process by the end of July.

MILAS